Change in the funding pattern of UBSP

3231. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to change the funding pattern of the Urban Basic Services for the Poor Scheme in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the decision has led to greater uncertainty in the implementation of the scheme; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for effective implementation of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b) During the VIIth Plan period, the Government intends to implement the scheme of Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP) with the Central Government contributing 60% and the State Governments/UTs contributing 40% of the total expenditure. This position has been clarified to the State Governments/UTs and as such, the question of uncertainty does not arise.

(c) The Government is seeking to effectively monitor the UBSP scheme by taking the following steps :

(i) Encouraging the State Governments/UTs to set up suitable Nodal Agencies/Cells/Committees for monitoring the scheme at the State and District levels;

(ii) By promptly providing clarifications with regard to the Guidelines for implementing the scheme;

(iii) By providing flexibility in the implementation of the scheme through the delegation of operational decision making to neighbourhood development committees of slum dwellers;

(iv) By ararnging regular meetings with the officers of States/ UTs and by undertaking field visits.

Mud Housing Technology

3222. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT is pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that mud housing technology can solve the housing shortage problem;

(b) if so, Governments' reactions thereto;

(c) whether any research is being conducted to improve the low cost construction technology to meet the growing demand for housing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) The Government is aware that the efficient use of mud is a cost-effective option for house construction.

(b) Institutions like Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO), National Buildings Organisation (NBO), Central Buildings Research Institute (CBRI), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi and Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) in public sector and several voluntary organisations have been promoting mud building technologies in various forms and regions. Government has been extending its support to their efforts through schemes like Research Grants, Building Centres and Experimental housing scheme etc.

(c) Yes, Sir. Central Buildings Research Institute, Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC), some Regional Research Laboratories of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and several Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) like Centre for Application of Science & Technology to Rural Areas, Bangalore (ASTRA), Development Alternatives, New Delhi are engaged in research and development of low cost construction technologies including mud technology. To meet the growing demand Government has also setup BMTPC for promoting such proven cost-effective technologies.